THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The liberalization of* the economy and economic reforms, which started in early 90's, are a continuous process aimed at faster growth with equity and employment. In the initial years industrial production showed high growth. Later, as the emphasis shifted to the services sector, the manufacturing sector showed a declining trend. Nevertheless industries producing basic goods, intermediate goods, consumer durables and consumer-non-durables are doing better this year, while capital goods industry has so far recorded negative growth.

(b) Information on list of companies which have suffered loss during the first half to the current year is being collected.

Allotment of PAN

1643. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the new tax payers have been allotted new PAN till the end of August, 2000 by the Income Tax Department.

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain tax payers who have applied for PAN in the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are yet to be allotted the same; and

(c) if so, the number of the tax payers who have not been allotted PAN who applied during the years 1997 and 2000 and by when PAN will be allotted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As against 2,00,50.796 applications received for allotment of Permanent Account Number. 1,93,55.352 applications have been processed and 1,79,56.628 Permanent Account Numbers have been allotted upto 31.10.2000. In the remaining processed cases PAN could not be allotted on account of crore deficiencies in the application forms for which deficiency letters have been sent to the applicant. Further action for allotment of PAN in these cases will be taken as soon as the replies are received from the applicants. Remaining PAN applications have been received in the recent months and all out efforts are being made for expeditious allotment of PAN to the applicants. The details of applications received and PAN allotted, year wise, are placed at statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Yearwise status of applications received and pan allotted

	No. of applications received during the year	No, of PAN allotted during the year
1995-96	992,447	519,130
1996-97	830,062	671,652
1997-98	885,076	742,666
1998-99	14,623,988	9,541,669
1999-2000	1,566,573	5,066,981
2000-2001 (upto 31.10.2000)	1,152,646	1,414,530
Total	20,050,796	17,956,628

Financial Assistance for **Combating Natural Disaster**

1644. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have responded to West Bengal Government's demand for assistance towards flood relief during the recent floods in September-October;

(b) whether the Central Government have merely confined their exercise to seeing that the State Government gets a loan of Rs. 430 crores from financial institutions and the second instalment of plan assistance is released as advance payment;

(c) whether such arrangements will mean additional expenditure by way of interest burden; and

(d) when and what amount of assistance for combating such a natural disaster will be given by the Central Government to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) In the light of the State's immediate cash flow needs, in the wake of the floods, Ministry of Finance released Rs. 66p.35 crores through a combination of feasible releases. This included advance release of the Centre's contribution of the Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 37,915 crores. In addition, HUDCO has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 430 crores for immediate rehabilitation of damaged houses and other infrastructure. Ministry